

Message Text

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DRAFTED BYEUR/EE:TEDEAL:FEW

EUR-MR. ARMITAGE

EUR /EE-MR. ANDREWS

L/C-MR. KWIA TEK

S/S-MR. MEALUM

C-MR. SHINN

USIA-MR. BROWN

----- 032587

R 242040Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLTWINING REPEAT STATE 014579 SENT ACTION PRAGUE 1/2/75.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, CZ

SUBJECT: BRATISLAVA CONSULATE GENERAL

REF.: A) PRAGUE 55, B) PRAGUE 140

1. DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE PLANNED OPENING OF
BRATISLAVA CG UNTIL FY 1976.

2. WE ARE AWARE THAT CZECHS HAVE NOT OFFICIALLY REPLIED TO
OUR NOTE OF OCTOBER 7 OTHER THAN TO INDICATE THAT MATTER

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STILL UNDER REVIEW. BUT, IN VIEW OF RECENT ZEVELOPMENTS

WITH RESPECT TO CLAIMS AGREEMENT AND TRADE BILL IN GENERAL, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT CZECHS, IF PRESSED, WOULD REPLY IN THE NEGATIVE. FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR (PRAGUE 107) THAT CZECHS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO GO AHEAD WITH OPENING OF CG WHILE TRADE AREA REMAINS FROZEN IS CLEAREST SIGNAL YET OF CURRENT GOC THINKING. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DEPARTMENT RELUCTANT TO PUSH ISSUE. A NEGATIVE RESPONSE BY GOC ON BRATISLAVA WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN TERMS OF U.S.-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS AND COULD REDOUND ON OUR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CLAIMS ISSUE.

3. ALTHOUGH CHNOUPEK DID NOT CLOSE DOOR ON MATTER, HE DID INDICATE THAT GOC WOULD NOT MOVE FORWARD ON BRATISLAVA AND OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES UNTIL THEY HEARD SOME SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FROM U.S. SIDE. WE HOPE TO MOVE TON

CLAIMS QUESTION BUT ARE NOT PREPARED TO DO SO IMMEDIATELY. AS REPORTED PREV-IOUSLY (STATE 9361), WE ARE STUDYING LEGISLATION, CONFERENCE REPORT AND FLOOR DEBATE BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED ON CLAIMS ISSUE. WE EXPECT TO COMPLETE THAT REVIEW SHORTLY. CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WILL FOLLOW. AS EMBASSY HAS POINTED OUT (PRAGUE 17), WE NEED TO GET SOME ADVANCE COMMITMENT FROM CONGRESS IF WE ARE TO AVOID A NEW CLAIMS FIASCO.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT IT HAS NO OPTION OTHER THAN TO POSTPONE PLANNED OPENING OF CG UNTIL NEXT FISCAL YEAR. WE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, FORMALLY WITHDRAW OUR REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN IN MARCH NOW PENDING BEFORE MFA. BRATISLAVA WILL THUS REMAIN HIGH ON AGENDA OF BILATERAL ISSUES, BUT FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, WE WOULD NOT PRESS GOC FOR AN EARLY RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE OF OCTOBER 7.

5. REFTEL B ARRIVED AFTER THIS CABLE WAS CLEARED AND

READYFOR TRANSMISSION. WE WILL THEREFORE BE ADDRESSING ISSUES RAISED IN REFTEL IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.

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KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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